

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method and apparatus for feed forward mail load notification to a mail carrier in a mass mailing operation. Various aspects of the production of mail pieces are monitored and a forecast is provided to the carrier. Aspects monitored include scheduling, consumable levels, manpower, equipment maintenance, planned and  
10 unplanned downtime and so forth. The information is correlated into a forecast and provided to the carrier on a routine basis, enabling the carrier to react accordingly. In a closed loop implementation, the carrier provides feedback related to its responsiveness to the forecast, and the mass mailer adapts accordingly. The mass mailing operation is contiguously monitored, and the forecast is updated when events  
15 cause expected production to deviate from the current forecast. Thus, the carrier is notified at the earliest time of the mail piece load to be expected from the mass mailer.